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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9324  
INFO RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7780  
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 9380  
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ OCT 8947  
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 5464  
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 0690  
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6065  
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4096  
RUEAWJC/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS BOGOTA 007203

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SUBJECT: URIBE REITERATES GOC OPPOSITION TO RETURN OF  
"SONIA" AND "SIMON TRINIDAD"

11. On October 3, following a breakfast meeting with Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, President Alvaro Uribe told the press the GOC opposed the return to Colombia of FARC members "Sonia" and "Simon Trinidad" as part of any humanitarian exchange of FARC-held hostages for FARC members in Colombian jails. Uribe said, "I want to express to the international community that you cannot equate the hostages in FARC custody with prisoners investigated and sentenced by Colombian justice."

12. Uribe said the "negative precedent" of such an exchange would undermine the GOC's extradition policy. It would encourage illegal armed groups and narcotraffickers to kidnap Americans and blackmail the USG and GOC in future extradition cases. Uribe reiterated GOC support for facilitator Senator Piedad Cordoba's humanitarian mission, but said her mission must remain within the GOC's clearly-set limits. Uribe told the press corps he had delivered those views directly to Secretary Gates. "You cannot play around with extradition,"

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he concluded.

13. Secretary Gates, speaking to the media after his visit, agreed with Uribe on "how counter-productive it is to release convicted criminals in exchange for hostages." He said he supported GOC efforts to obtain the hostage's release. "President Uribe has assured me there are limits of what he will and will not agree to," Gates said, "and I am satisfied with those limits."  
Brownfield